

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /104 W

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R 051305 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0284

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: LABOR UNREST IN JOHANNESBURG

1. DURING WEEK ENGLISH- LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO RASH OF AFRICAN WILDCAT STRIKES WHICH OCCURRED APRIL 2-3 IN LOCAL IRON CASTING AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES.

2. MORNING SHIFT OF APPROXIMATELY 250 WORKERS AT FERROVORM (ALBERTON) LTD. (IRON CASTINGS) REFUSED TO BEGIN WORK APRIL 2 IN PROTEST AGAINST 2-4 CENT PER HOUR WAGE INCREASE GRANTED MARCH 30. NO VIOLENT INCIDENTS REPORTED BUT COMPANY DISMISSED ABOUT 150 WORKERS AND POLICE MADE 4 ARRESTS BEFORE END OF DAY. MOST STRIKERS RETURNED TO WORK APRIL 3.

3. MORNING OF APRIL 2 ABOUT 1000 CGTHING WORKERS STRUCK JOHANNESBURG FACTORY OF J. J. HENOCHSBERG BUT RETURNED TO WORK AT 1 P. M. WHEN COMPANY OFFERED 75 CENTS PER WEEK INCREASE. FEATURE OF BRIEF STRIKE WAS REFUSAL OF BANTU LABOUR OFFICER FOR SOUTH TRANSVAAL TO DEAL WITH OFFICIAL OF 18,000 MEMBER UNREGISTERED AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION OF CLOTHING WORKDERS.

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4. MORNING OF APRIL 3 ABOUT 300 AFRICAN AND COLOURED WORKERS AT BROOKFIELD KNITWEAR REFUSED TO BEGIN WORK UNTIL COMPANY AGREED TO PUT 5 PERCENT COST OF LIVING INCREASE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1 INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. SAME MORNING GARMENT WORKERS AT JARDIN DES MODES AND NEW YORK CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ALSO CALLED BRIEF STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF DEMANDS FOR COST OF LIVING INCREASES.

5. TUCSA TRADE UNION LEADERS AND OTHERS STATING PUBLICLY THEY EXPECT UNREST TO CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY UNLESS SAG DOES MUCH MORE TO PROVIDE FOR AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN WAGE AND RELATED INDUSTRIAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT IS CURRENTLY PROPOSING IN DRAFT LEGISLATION AMENDING BANTU LABOUR (SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES) ACT. TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY GROBBELAAR HAS CHARACTERIZED PROPOSAL TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT- APPOINTED ARICANS TO SIT IN ON INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AS QTE MEANINGLESS SOP UNQTE. MRS. LUCY MVOBELO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF NATIONAL UNION OF CLOTHING WORKERS HAS SAID MORE WORK STOPPAGES INEVITABLE IN GARMENT INDUSTRY UNLESS EMPLOYERS GRANT IMMEDIATE COST OF LIVING RELIEF.

6. STRIKE CONCNCIDING WITH NATIONAL LABOUR WEEK AT WITWATERS-RAND UNIVERSITY WHICH HAS FEATURED PROGRAM OF ADDRESSES BY PROMINENT TRADE UNIONISTS AND ACTIVISTS AND STUDENTS PROTEST VISITS TO COMPANIES SUSPECTED OF PAYING SUB- POVERTY WAGES TO AFRICANS EMPLOYEES.
LUTKINS

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